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**Environment Department Advises “BOIL WATER ORDER” for  
Punta de Agua MDWCA in Torrance County**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised the Punta de Agua Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) in Torrance County to issue a “boil water order” for its water system.

The Punta de Agua MDWCA, located in Torrance County approximately 6 miles from Mountainair, was put on a “boil water order” on September 3, 2004 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *Fecal Coliform*. NMED requires that the Punta de Agua MDWCA water system notify all consumers served by the water system of this finding.

Users of the Punta de Agua MDWCA water system in Torrance County have been asked to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking and dishwashing.

The presence of *Fecal Coliform* in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of *Fecal Coliform* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for *Fecal Coliform* in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of *Fecal Coliform* or other disease-causing organisms, which are sometimes found in sewage or animal wastes. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

Actions have been initiated to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination. In addition, the Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist with trouble-shooting to identify the source of the problem.

For more information contact Violette Valerio-Hirschfeld, Env. Specialist, NMED, at (505) 841-9465 or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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